OPINION SUMMARY

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

LELAND DENT,	)	No. ED110430
	)	
Appellant,	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
	)	of St. Louis County
v.	)	Cause No. 17SL-CC03590
	)	
STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	Honorable Margaret T. Donnelly
	)	
Respondent.	)	Filed: March 21, 2023

Appellant Leland Dent appeals the motion court's judgment denying without an evidentiary hearing his amended Rule 29.15 motion for post-conviction relief, which alleged ineffective assistance of trial counsel. Dent's first point on appeal is that the motion court clearly erred in denying his amended motion because trial counsel was ineffective for failing to review or present evidence favorable to his defense from his victim's medical records. In his second point on appeal, Dent argues his trial counsel was ineffective also for failing to object to the State's closing argument about the angle of the victim's stab wound. We affirm the judgment of the motion court.

AFFIRMED.

Division Three Holds: The motion court did not clearly err. Regarding Dent's first point, presenting medical records demonstrating additional injuries to his victim would have been cumulative of evidence already properly admitted by the trial court and would have undercut counsel's trial strategy. Regarding Dent's second point, the State's closing argument was supported by the evidence at trial. Any objection by counsel to the State's argument would have been meritless and would have undermined counsel's trial strategy. The record rebutted Dent's allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel, and the motion court did not clearly err in denying Dent's amended motion without an evidentiary hearing.

Opinion by: Cristian M. Stevens, J.,
Gary M. Gaertner, Jr., P.J., and John P. Torbitzky, J., concur.

Attorney for Appellant: Nina McDonnell, Assistant Public Defender
Attorney for Respondent: Andrew Bailey, Attorney General
Evan J. Buchheim, Assistant Attorney General

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT PART OF THE OPINION OF THE COURT. IT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE READER AND SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED OR CITED.